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Remarks

The present Amendment and Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed December 14, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 17, 19-22, 30, 31, 37, 38, 39, 43, 45, 49, 51, 52, and 54-57 were rejected. Claims 1, 37 and 38 have been amended. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 13, 21, 30, 37, 38, 39, 43, 45, 49 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pulkrabek. As noted on the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, Pulkrabek does not disclose the claimed covering layer. Applicant agrees.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the polymeric covering layer extending across at least the side edges of the target elements, and bonded to at least a portion of the side edges. Support for this amendment is located on page 23, lines 24-25 and page 24, lines 11-14 of the specification.

As clearly indicated in Figure 1 of Pulkrabek, the front and rear side edges of the target element are exposed, not covered. Therefore, Pulkrabek does not disclose a covering layer extending across at least the side edges of the target elements. Pulkrabek also does not disclose a covering layer bonded to the side edges of the target elements.

Claim 37 has been amended to recite the polymeric covering layer encapsulating at least the side edges. Support for this amendment is found on page 24, lines 11-14. The term encapsulating refers to surrounding, encasing, or protecting as if in a capsule. The encapsulating covering layer can be molded around the target elements, a liquid coating applied to the target elements, or a sheet material bonded to the target elements. The covering layer can be a foam, a film, a non-woven web, or a combination thereof. Claim 37 has also been amended to recite the polymeric covering layer providing at least a portion of the compressive force on the major surfaces of the target elements.

As discussed above, the front and rear side edges of the target element in Pulkrabek are exposed. Therefore, Pulkrabek does not disclose the claimed covering layer encapsulating at least the side edges target elements.

Claim 38 has been amended to recite bonding a polymeric covering layer to at least the side edges of the target elements and to applying a compressive force on the target elements. Support for this amendment is located on page 23, lines 24-25 of the specification.

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As discussed above, the front and rear side edges of the target element in Pulkrabek are exposed. Therefore, Pulkrabek does not disclose a covering layer extending across at least the side edges of the target elements.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 37 and 38, and the claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by the cited reference.


Claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 31, 51, 52, 54, 55 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pulkrabek in view of Morrell. Applicant submits that the body cover 62 of Morrell does not extend across the front and rear ends 56 and 58 of the target insert 42 as shown in Figure 1 of Morrell. If the archery target of Pulkrabek was located in the animal target of Morrell, as proposed on page 3 of the Office Action, the body cover 62 of Morrell would not extend across the side edges located at front and rear ends 56 and 58. (see Figure 1 of Morrell). Additionally, neither of the cited references disclose a covering layer bonded to at least a portion of the side edges of the target elements. Therefore, no prima facie case of obviousness is set forth.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the \$60.00 One-month extension fee to our Deposit Account 06-0029. Should any additional fees be required, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge these fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 06-0029 and is requested to notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:



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